

State of Arizona Department of Education Office of John Huppenthal Superintendent of Public Instruction

1535 W. Jefferson St., Bin #2 Phoenix, AZ 85007 November 7, 2011

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of parents who are enrolled in the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program. The ESA program permits parents to use awarded scholarship funds for tuition, tutors, curriculum, educational therapies and other expenses. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has made ESA debit cards the sole method of payment to private schools and educational vendors. For private schools and businesses who do not have access to a credit card point of sale, ADE has authorized payment through the online service Paypal.

Regrettably, delays have occurred in making ESA funds available to parents through the new debit card system. ADE, along with the State Treasurer's Office is addressing the problem and intends to make ESA funds available to parents as soon as possible.

If parents, private schools or other vendors have questions please e-mail us at ESA@azed.gov.

Sincerely,

Aiden Fleming Legislative Liaison

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Policy Development & Government Relations